

THE REBUILDING OF THE CARLSRUHE THEATRE.

THE Grand Duke of Baden has proposed a prize for the best plan for this building—to which the injunction that it be executed in the spirit of German architecture (*im Geiste*) has been added. On this account a German architect has put forth the following observations.

"We may, in the first instance, well change the expression of German into Gothic architecture. In the whole of civilized Europe, the style of mediæval architecture was the same—and the cathedrals of Cologne, Strasburg, and York are monuments of a youthful inspiration (*Jugend begeistern*), which we fear will never more return. Let us keep close to that great historical axiom: "That in every epoch of history—all nations connected with it, have always used the same architectural style, only varying as to the degree of skill and mind of any individual nation." The monuments on the Indus and Ganges, Euphrates and Tigris, Nile, and at Persepolis, are so closely allied to each other, that we may call this style—whose constructions exclude the arch and the use of wood, the *heroic* one. The architecture of the subsequent epoch was the same as the former, a *general* one, and reached as far as the peaceful exploits of the Greeks and Romans. This style implies the use of both arch and timber, in every case, whenever a certain aim was more easily accomplished, than by the covering of horizontal slabs, &c. The characteristics of this style are a high consequentiality in the laying out of spaces, the use of the most adapted materials, and the highest taste in ornaments; thence it has obtained, most deservedly, the name of the *Classic*. And, when, in fine, this style of art had vanished in the great nation-migration (*Völkerverwanderung*), of the middle ages, or sunk to the *Byzantine-Roman* style, mankind became imbued with a new sort of inspiration at the Holy Sepulchre in the far East—and imagination gained once more ascendancy over the rules of mere positive reason. Then it came, that the crystalline structure of the stone was violated as it were, being forced to bend to the widest, and at times, to the acutest arch—and rise up beyond all human proportion and necessity; it was formed, in *flam*, *lombard* and slenderest *finials*, foliage, *flowers*. Still, even then, all mankind (either herded around the cross or crescent), had but *one* style of architecture—viz., that of the *pointed* arch, which may be called (in its bifurcation) the *Gothic* and the *Mauro-Barbaric*, if conjoined, the *romantic* style. When the minds of men began again to sober down to positive reason, they seemed to revert to classic architecture, endeavouring, however, to surpass their prototypes in elegance. The same of this style has received, accordingly, appropriate names—*del cinque cento* in Italy; *de la renaissance* in France; in Spain, *Architectura plateresca* (after Raphael's architecture).

After a long period of art-confusion and the subsiding of all genuine taste, we find the nations of Europe undecided on the choice of a new style of architecture. The most potent art-patron of modern Europe, Louis of Bavaria, however, embellishes his metropolis with structures of every kind, making it thereby the high art-school for the pupils congregating there from all Europe. This seems to us more judicious, than to make the mediæval style the chief patron of art-buildings, as is done in London and Paris. Because, even where it is art and not filigree work—its sterlingness cannot be compared with the classic. Compare even the solidity which a Parthenon presents, over the thousand fees and angles of Gothic buildings.

Still, this is not said to prevent us from taking care and restoring our old cathedrals with their numberless points and crags, columns and statues, mouldings and filigree work—it is known, that Professor Amai replaced one thousand and eight hundred statues at the dome of Milan alone! Let us rejoice that German princes restore their old castles and build Mauresque palaces and baths; let us approve that a whole city like that of Nuremberg has remained intact of classic intrusion. These stupendous works of *romantic* style, deserve eternal duration—but they should (like any other art-work) never come in close contact with *one of a different style*, which

surely must disrupt the feelings of every sensible beholder.

The question of flat and acute gables has also been mooted, of late, and some preference shewn to the latter. Still, it is well known, that after Winckelmann's return from Italy he said, that their sight was insupportable to him. On this account we have to combat the opinion of those who consider gables as extraneous and arbitrary accessories and ornaments; and whenever they are placed without any scope or aim, they are faulty—and it is from such *arbitrariness* that the decay of architecture has always taken its origin. Such faults have been committed at Carlsruhe in three of its hugest modern buildings—the Hall of Art, and the Terminus in that capital, and the Drinking Saloon at Baden. And if art-consequentiality and chastity be thus badly observed by masters, may we, then, wonder at the sins of pupils, and see in the same building all sorts of doors and windows bungled together, wide spans topped by strait, narrow by arcuated lines; columns used as a mere ornament to walls, pillars wanting in the corners of Peripteri, and finding them close by, where they are not wanting. Still, the student of constructive art ought to study all art-styles in their greatest detail, and then to *opine* for one most adapted to his judgment and imagination. Unfortunately, art, philosophy, religion, politics, are stagnating in the present period of transition. If all these be once regenerated, we shall not be wanting in a novel—an adapted style of architecture!"

PROGRESS OF THE BILL OF HEALTH.

THE progress of this bill many thought had been arrested for the present session; but a determination has been shewn to carry it out at least as far as possible, before the rising of parliament; the commons, as the *Times* remarks, appearing to appreciate the grace and wisdom of such a closing act, before it surrenders back its trust to the people. The progress within the last fortnight has been accordingly considerable.

At the Statistical Society's rooms, on the 10th inst., a conference was held between the committee of the Health of Towns Association and members of both Houses of Parliament, to consider the means of rendering the most effectual support to the Government in their efforts to pass the bill during the present session, and thus to insure a commencement of sanitary improvements.

The Marquis of Normandy presided; and among those present were Lord Kinnaird, the Earl of Dartmouth, Earl Fortescue, Lord Ashley, Lord Dunsany, and Sir O. Lemon, and various other M.P.'s. Dr. Southwood Smith, &c. Letters, expressive of sympathy with the object in view, were sent in by the Duke of Cambridge, the Earls of Auckland, Clarendon, and Shelburne, Lords Jocelyn and Sandon, Sir H. Douglas, Sir J. D. Acland, and others. The Marquis of Normandy, after presenting in detail a stirring example (elsewhere noticed) of the deadly sequences still permitted not only to exist, but to increase, within the sanitary sphere of our great manufacturing towns, said, did it not reveal a state of things which called aloud for legislative interference, and scientific superintendence? He was anxious to cheer on the Government to give effect to all the portions of the bill which they could carry through. He was convinced that delay was sinful, and he believed that Government shared his feelings on the subject.

Mr. Mackinnon stated some objections to the bill, amongst which he pointed to the want of arrangements for the prohibition of intramural interments. England, moreover, was averse to the principle of centralization; and he was of opinion that the measure would never become law unless they left the power of administration in the local boards. [Lord Ashley intimated that the clause objected to had been given up.] If they succeeded, however, in getting the end of the wedge in this year, they might be able to drive it home next. By the improvements effected of late years, they had annihilated time, space, and pain,—time by the telegraph, space by railways and pain by the application of sulphuric ether. Why, then, should they not now seek to annihilate disease, the only way to do which was to set their shoulders to the wheel, and enable the Government meantime to carry

the least objectionable portions of the bill? Lord Ashley moved "That, in the opinion of this meeting, it is of the utmost importance that some measure of sanitary reform should be passed in the present session of parliament, and that this meeting pledges itself to use every possible exertion to support the Government in their efforts to carry through whatever portion of the Health of Towns Bill, in the present advanced stage of public business, they may decide on retaining, as a step towards the final attainment of the great object they have in view." Mr. Ewart having seconded the motion, it was unanimously agreed to.

The friendly forces having thus been mustered, active progress at once displayed itself in the commons, in spite of Colonel Sibthorp, —worthy coadjutor of the obstructives in so grave and serious a cause,—who on the motion being put, that the house do now resolve itself into committee on the bill, proposed an amendment, seconded by Mr. Newdigate, that they do so that day six months. An animated discussion ensued, during which Mr. Roebuck, with every desire to support the noble lord, the author of the bill, and to admire the boldness of his attempt, and assist him in the benevolence of his intention, could not help expressing his regret, that although the noble lord had gone to Bath, and there found pestilence: had crossed to Manchester, and pestilence was there: had rushed to Birmingham, where all the abominations—no matter of what description—could not resist his interference: had then swept round to London, and there, frightened by a phantom, struck his flag, and put—his stick—yes, cut his stick! The vernacular was the fittest language for describing the somewhat ignoble flight of the noble lord (Lord Morpeth) who had spread his net so wide; but why was it cog, and this great fish let out?

We cannot pretend, however, here to pursue the course of debate, even on a subject which, though intimately related to all that is stale, is in itself for ever fresh and worthy of re-arguement. We can only, in the meantime, spare enough of space to state, that after not a few members had delivered their sentiments, the question was put, the amendment negatived by a majority of 191 to 50, and the committee fixed for an evening next week.

NOXIOUS VAPOURS FROM SEWERS.

THE Society of Arts have awarded premiums to several plans to prevent the emission of noxious vapours from sewers. The following is a description of two of them.

Mr. J. Walker's Sewer-trap.

It is proposed that a tank or pocket in cement should be built, to receive the water through the gratings from the streets, whereby the grosser particles will be collected instead of passing into the river. A cast-iron elbow is to be fixed on the side of the tank leading into the sewer. The elbow is to dip 3 inches into the water, so as to form a water joint to trap the vapours from the sewers, and to prevent the bursting of the drains. At every such trap an air-pipe is to be inserted, which may be continued under the paving, and terminated up the nearest lamp-post, building, or rain-water pipe.

Mr. Chasley's Plan for Preventing the Emission of Noxious Vapours from Sewers.

This plan consists of a cast-iron basin suspended under the body of the trap by means of chains, for the purpose of holding water to prevent the passage of the gas from the interior of the sewers. A partition is formed across the basin and parting any ice or other body in it by lowering the basin, which can be done by passing an iron rod through the grating and unhooking one of the chains: any dirt that it contains may thus be discharged.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.—The 17th meeting has commenced at Oxford, and promises to be satisfactory. Accommodation has been afforded to many visitors in the different colleges, at present untenanted by the undergraduates. Prince Albert is expected on Monday. Amongst the papers announced which more especially interest us is one, by Professor Hodgkinson, on the Dec Bridge failure.